

5,987,474. On the contrary, 'claims 1-7 were canceled by the preliminary amendment filed on November 16, 1999, and new claims 8-27 are pending in the present application.

In a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned on February 13, 2001, the Examiner acknowledged that he had located the preliminary amendment and that he would issue a new Office Action directed to the new claims. An early action and notice of allowance regarding the new claims is earnestly solicited. It is respectfully requested that amendment of the application to convert the appendices to tables be deferred until the indication of allowable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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